

Amdt. dated September 24, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 24, 2004

Serial No. 09/755,832
Docket No. TUC920000050US1
Firm No. 0018.0082

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 25 to page 2, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

However, one difficulty with a nodal architecture is coordinating an upgrade to node firmware. For instance, in order to replace a node, the replacement node may have to be at the same firmware level as the other nodes in the system in order to function properly. However, the firmware level of a replacement part may be substantially different than the other system nodes, especially if the replacement node contains an older version of firmware than the component being replaced. For instance, the replacement node may have been in-stock at a warehouse for a significant period of time, during which one or more firmware updates were made to the system. Currently, there are two solutions to maintaining code levels on processor assemblies. The first involves maintaining replacement nodes in the warehouse at current firmware levels. This solution is costly and time consuming because it involves turning the stock every time a firmware change is made. The second solution is to have a maintenance technician update the firmware when a node is replaced at the customer site[.]. This solution is also problematic because of the cost of having the technician apply the update and the potential of human error when applying the update.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 1-9 with the following amended paragraph:

Described implementations provide an automatic update to firmware at computing nodes in a distributed nodal architecture. The described described implementations reduce the need to ensure that warehouse stock is "turned" or updated every time a firmware update is released. Further, with the described implementations, there is no need for a technician to update the node firmware before using the replacement node. Still further, the implementations increase the likelihood that the same version of the firmware is running on all the nodes of the nodal system to avoid incompatibility problems between different firmware levels.